

1. An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:1).
2. An isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3 having a glutamic acid to lysine change at amino acid 74.
3. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a loss-of-function mutant of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein the mutation in the nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) n3400;
  - b) n3407; and
  - c) n3377, and wherein said mutation is a ced-9 loss-of-function mutation.
4. The nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein said nucleic acid is from a nematode.
5. A vector, wherein said vector comprises the nucleic acid of claim 1, 2, or 3.
6. The vector of claim 5, wherein said vector is within a cell.
7. The vector of claim 6, wherein said cell is a plant cell.
8. The vector of claim 6, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.